

# The Farmington Times.

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FARMINGTON, ST. FRANCOIS COUNTY, MISSOURI, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1920

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## Water, Light and Power Plant In Sore Need of New Equipment

As a sequel to the article in last week's Times, a story on the condition of the Farmington Light, Water and Power Plant very naturally follows, and one object would hardly be entirely complete without a resume of the other. Therefore it seems to us important that something should now be said in regard to a thing that is of more vital immediate concern to the population of this city than is even a sewerage system, as all-important as that may be.

With such purpose in view, a Times reporter on Tuesday interviewed Judge J. D. Mitchell, superintendent of the Light and Water Plant. On being asked what was the present condition of that plant, the Judge replied: "It is far from the condition that I would like to see it; there are a number of things that should be strengthened and renewed, in order to place the plant in a condition that will insure the best and continued service. While everything is in the best possible condition at present, for the material that we must work with, a breakdown is liable to occur at any time, which is liable to put the entire plant out of running for an indefinite period, or until necessary repairs can be made."

"It is not difficult to see," continued the Judge, "something of the trouble and inconvenience that is liable to result from a breakdown in the old machinery, which has long been, and still is, compelled to carry a maximum load. For instance, the single generator, which has long been in use, is compelled to carry a full capacity load night after night, with no letup. Even the best machinery, with proper care, must fail after so long a time, when put to such a strenuous test. Then, too, the water mains about town are beginning to burst, especially in the lower parts of town, where the strain on them is the greatest. This indicates that their days of

usefulness are nearing an end. This, also, is to be expected, as they have been doing service for about twenty years, and they are O. D. steel castings, ordinarily only about one-sixteenth of an inch in thickness.

For some time past the water mains have occasionally been bursting with extra heavy pressure has been placed on them, as in the case of fire, when heavy water pressure is required. While we are doing all we can, with the equipment we have, and have so far managed to render practically uninterrupted service, a serious breakdown is liable to occur at any time. These are some of the reasons why I would be pleased to undertake the work of completely overhauling and renewing the Light, Water and Power Plant, and putting it in condition for properly performing the largely increased demands that it must now constantly perform. I believe that with \$25,000 such improvement could be properly done."

With such a statement from Judge Mitchell, does it not seem that the time is now here to attend to this greatest need of Farmington. With the Light, Water and Power Plant of this city, even indeed would Farmington be in an unbearable condition. Would it not be the best possible business to look after this matter before the plant becomes altogether inefficient for public needs, or, worse still, before serious breakdowns occur that will put the plant entirely out of commission. Then, when voting the bonds necessary for such essential improvement, would it not also be a wise thing to combine with the sewerage proposition, and vote necessary bonds for both improvements at the same time. It is estimated that perhaps \$150,000 would be sufficient to complete both these sorely needed improvements.

WHAT YOU SAY TO THIS, MR. FRIEND OF FARMINGTON?

## Paved Way Will Soon be Located

Messrs. Ernest Reeves, secretary of the St. Louis Auto Club, Frank W. Jarrold and E. W. Willett, engineers for the National Highway Association, were in Farmington Wednesday in the interest of an International Paved Way. An effort is being made to secure this Paved Way along the "Lone Star Route", from Detroit, Mich., to Laredo, Texas. It will be one of twenty-eight highways that will be recommended by the National Highway Association. It will also be one of the first Federalized Trunk Lines in this State to receive money from the recently authorized \$6,000,000 bond issue.

A committee from the Farmington Chamber of Commerce met with these gentlemen in conference, when the plans that have been proposed by the National Highway Association were gone over in more or less detail. If the plans proposed are accepted, Farmington will be on this Paved Way, which will be of incalculable benefit to this city and community. After listening to a resume of the proposed plans, every member of the committee representing the Farmington Chamber of Commerce immediately became an enthusiastic advocate of the organized efforts that are being put forth to bring the proposed splendid highway this way, and every possible aid and assistance was offered to bring about such a happy result.

## Result of Near East Relief Call

Through the courtesy of the Farmington News and Times, the churches of Farmington were told last week of the opportunity to donate second-hand clothing for the Near East sufferers, millions of whom face the bitter cold of winter without clothing.

The response to this call was splendid. Hundreds of excellent garments for men, women and children were received.

A conservative estimate of the value of each garment was made and the aggregate amount was \$1375. This divided equally among the five churches participating gives each credit for \$275. The weight of the boxes was 1,400 pounds and expressage to sea board above \$70. Special credit is due Brothers W. S. Miller and C. R. Thormorton, who gave three days to preparing the articles for shipment.

O. H. DUGGINS.

### NOTICE!

Bids will be received to 7 o'clock p. m., Monday, Dec. 13, 1920, for hauling city coal. Bids should be in the hands of J. D. Mitchell, superintendent of Light and Water, not later than the above date.

By Order Board of Aldermen.

### CHAMPION STEER KEPT FOR CHRISTMAS DINNER

Dexter, a pure-bred Holstein, who was bred and fed by State Hospital No. 4, is beyond question one of the largest steers ever produced in Missouri. Dexter tipped the scale Monday at 2236 pounds.

Lyman Reid, of the Farmington Chamber of Commerce, had him photographed this week, this photograph to be used in the St. Francois county exhibit at the Chamber of Commerce in St. Louis.

This steer will be kept for Christmas dinner, for the patients, officers and employees of State Hospital No. 4.

DR. J. H. FERGUSON

News was received here last of the week of the death of Dr. J. H. Ferguson, which occurred at 7 o'clock Saturday evening, Dec. 4th, at his home in Colorado Springs, Colo., where he was engaged in active practice. Death resulted from a paralytic stroke.

Immediately on receipt of the sad information, a sister, Miss Emma Ferguson of this city, and Dr. G. B. Perkins of this community, left to bring the remains back to deceased old home for burial. Dr. Ferguson was 68 years old, and was so used to be in good health when he was stricken. He had resided in Colorado Springs for about 20 years, where he had a large practice.

Seven sisters and a brother, Lloyd Ferguson of this city, survive him. Dr. Ferguson had many friends in this community, to whom news of his death will bring genuine sorrow. He was reared in the Libertyville community, where for a number of years he practiced his profession. He also practiced in the Mine La Motte neighborhood before moving to Colorado Springs. The remains will arrive today noon, and the funeral services will be held at Libertyville at 2:30 tomorrow afternoon.

The season appears to be again at hand when the morning mail for this city fails to arrive until 10:30 instead of early in the morning, according to schedule. The general opinion is that such seasons are altogether too frequent. The morning mail was thus delayed both Wednesday and Thursday of this week.

## A Heartrending Accident at Desloge

One of the most heart-rending accidents it has been the duty of The Times to record for some time past, occurred at Desloge at 3:30 o'clock Monday afternoon, when William Bryan, the six-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Bryan of that place, was run over by a local freight, having his right arm and both legs cut off. While the little fellow was not killed instantly, he was rushed to the St. Francois hospital, where he died on the operating table.

It seems that little "Billie", with a companion, was about the depot when the local was doing some switching, and The Times is informed they were discussing the life of brakemen, when "Billie's" companion stated that he would not like such life on account of the danger of it. The story then states that "Billie" contended that it was not dangerous, and that he could climb onto a car himself, and proceeded to demonstrate by catching the lower round of the ladder and attempting to swing himself up. But it seems his foot slipped from its intended resting place, and the momentum of the car served to draw him under the wheels.

When his mother, who was one of the first to reach the mangled child, reached his side "Billie" was sitting up by the side of the track. This was before the relapse set in, and the little fellow was unusually bright as he told his mother that both his legs were gone, and that he could not attend school. The mother held the little fellow on the way to the hospital, when death soon claimed him. The sorely afflicted parents, who are among the leading citizens of Desloge, have the deepest sympathy of the entire community in their great sorrow.

## City Taxes Are Now Due

Taxpayers may save themselves unnecessary delay and annoyance by not waiting until the last hour to pay their taxes, which are now due. Eleventh hour waiters may be put to long and tiresome waits, which early attention to this matter will avoid. The penalty for non-payment will go on the first of the year, and will be rigidly invoked. Geo. C. Forster, City Collector.

### TO RAISE REVENUE

More than fifty county judges, county clerks and members of the Missouri Legislature, representing 15 counties of Southwest Missouri, met in the court house at Springfield Saturday to discuss measures for the relief of the financial difficulties that confront county courts in the state.

County Judge Robert Hamilton and County Clerk Ward Ellis attended the meeting and took part in the discussions. Every speaker urged the necessity for changes in the laws governing county revenues.

The need for measures to reduce county expenditures or to increase county revenues was said to be imperative, as under existing conditions practically every county in the state is facing a serious stringency, if not actual bankruptcy.

It was pointed out that recent legislatures have created several new offices in the various counties and raised the salaries of several officials. These increases in the expense account of the counties together with the high cost of labor, materials and everything in which the courts must invest in order to carry on the public business, have been forced on the courts without any provision to meet them. There has been no change in the rate of levy for county purposes and in some instances the state board of equalization has lowered the assessment returned by county assessors. Some provision which will keep the revenues and expenses of the counties more nearly equal must be made by the coming legislature.

Assessment at the full valuation of property as the law requires is one of the remedies offered. While the statutes make it clear that property shall be assessed at its actual value, few or none of the county assessors follow the letter of the law in that regard. An increase in the rate of levy for county revenue was suggested as a possible measure of relief, as was also a reduction of the levy for state tax.

Howell county, according to Judge Hamilton, is running "in the hole" every year and something must be done to raise revenue to meet additional expenses. The next state legislature is expected to remedy the present difficulties.—West Plains Gazette.

### STATE MAY BUY PARK

A proposition was placed before the Governor last week for the purchase by the state of a tract of 3,030 acres of land in Camden county to be converted into a state game and fish preserve and a public park for the state at a cost of \$60,000. The land belongs to the estate of R. M. Snyder of Kansas City. It is unimproved and it is said that the timber alone is worth \$100,000. The tract does not include what is known as the Habatunko Springs tract, embracing 2,130 acres, but the state is tendering an option on the latter for \$240,000, which would include the springs and all the buildings and improvements.

Mrs. Billie Benson came in Sunday to look after business matters. They are now living in St. Louis.

## What Does This Year's Tax Receipt Mean to You?

Have you paid your taxes this year?

If so, you have doubtless been surprised at the increase of such taxes, which has caused you to wonder why such a pronounced increase should have been necessary. Is it because you are receiving any additional protection of life, liberty and happiness. Reason tells you that such is not the case. Then, and the question seems to be perfectly proper and legitimate, why should there be such a pronounced increase in the amount of taxes that is assessed against you, even though the property assessed may be no greater than in former years.

While the taxes in St. Francois county have formerly been excessively low, they have also been sufficient to pay the cost of government, state, county and local. Therefore it is difficult to find the correct solution for the apparent heavy increase in the tax rate, insofar as the small property owner is concerned. There has been about a 30 per cent increase in school taxes, for the purpose of raising more funds for the proper conduct of public schools, and such increase will generally be acknowledged as right and proper, as the salaries of school teachers has had to be very materially increased. But that is the only item of tax increase that is generally known to the people. And that is the only item of increase that has been made, according to information from the Collector's office.

Then the one remaining chance for a solution of this increase in taxes is that there has been an increase in property valuation, which is the only method to be pursued, in the absence of an increased amount of taxable wealth, to raise additional money by taxation. If more money is needed for necessary expenses of county or state government, then such increase in valuation is not improper, providing such increase is uniform and equal among all property holders. But unless such increase in the valuation of property for assessment is uniform, then the system immediately becomes unfair and unjust—in other words it is at once converted into a system of robbery.

Such reasoning at once brings up the question for which The Times has fought, ever since the present management has been in control. That is that the immense mining companies of St. Francois county is not now, and never have been, paying taxes on

a fair property valuation on their holdings in this county. Since property must bear the burden of taxation, is there any degree of justice in giving the large property owner a lower valuation on property than the small property owner? Common sense again answers "No."

As The Times has repeatedly stated in the past, it would appear to the average good citizen that property bearing the largest percentage of profits to its owners should bear even an additional part of taxation, and who is there who is prepared to say that the great lead mines of this county are not the producers of the largest profits of any property in this county. Not only that, but they are constantly draining the county of her abundant supply of natural wealth, which in time will result in leaving the county an absolute pauper insofar as her mineral wealth is concerned. Then what is the need of "splitting hairs" when it comes to assessing such property.

Viewed from any logical standpoint, it would not appear unjust or unfair if such property should be compelled to pay even a higher rate of assessment than farm and other property, which, as a general thing, is constantly adding to the assessed valuation of the property of the county. But what the taxpayers of the county want, and what they must demand, if steps are not soon taken to correct this long-standing injustice, is absolute fairness in assessment of the great mining corporations of this county. Such property should be assessed at least as high as that of farms and other property.

During the past few years the mining corporations have taken millions of dollars of profits out of this county. Surely they could find no valid reason for refusing to leave with the county a small per centage of such profits for the privileges they are enjoying. But even though they should object to a "square deal", then they should be compelled to do the right thing. They have had their heels on the neck of this county all the many years the mines have been operating here, and they will not willingly release their stranglehold. But when they are compelled—and compelled they must be now to do the proper thing in this county—the operators will have more respect for the county administration than they ever have had in the past.

## Basket Ball for Orphanage Benefit

A series of basket ball games have been arranged to start at once between eighteen different teams in this locality, the opening game of which was played in Flat River Wednesday evening. The best talent to be secured will participate in these games, the winner of the championship to secure a gold cup.

Farmington enthusiasts have secured an exceptionally fine team for competition in this contest, for which the best players of this city and community have been rounded up and will participate. It would seem that Farmington has an excellent chance of winning the championship cup in this contest, and the public can do much to cheer them on by giving liberal patronage to the games. The first game to be played here in this series will be next Monday, between Flat River and the local team.

The local team has agreed to give their entire part of the proceeds from these games to the Orphanage of this city, a most worthy provision. The first game was played Wednesday night at Flat River, between Bonne Terre and the local team, resulting in victory for Farmington by a score of 35 to 4.

### GET MORE BUTTER

Mrs. Hattie Mece of Glenn, Missouri, says: "I was not making enough butter from my cow's milk production for a family of two. After using Dr. LeGear's Stock Powders a short time, she gave a half gallon more milk a day, and a pound of butter a day."

Dr. LeGear's Stock Powders give to milk cows just what is needed to keep the digestive organs in proper condition, so that they get the most possible good from their feed. Give equal wonderful results when used for horses, hogs, and sheep, because they are a tonic, appetizer and worm expeller.

It matters not what ailment you may have among your stock or poultry, it will pay you to get the proper Dr. LeGear Remedy from your dealer. They are the Doctor's personal prescriptions, compounded during his 28 years of Veterinary Practice and Expert Poultry Breeding. They must satisfy you, or your dealer will refund your money.

ZACK COLE

In his 76th year, this old citizen passed to his eternal reward, from his home in DeLassus Sunday, Dec. 4th. Deceased was the father of three children, two of whom are living. He was known as a good citizen, a devoted husband and father.

At the request of deceased, funeral services were held at the grave, conducted by Rev. O. H. L. Cunningham, and interment was in the Masonic cemetery.

## Electric Shoe Hospital Here

F. A. Kuhn, a high-class young gentleman, and a practical shoe maker, with many years of valuable experience, has opened in the St. Francois hotel building an Electric Shoe Hospital, where he is fully equipped with all kinds of the latest machinery and material for operating on old shoes and renewing their life. With the present exorbitant prices of shoes, the importance to our people of this enterprise can hardly be overestimated. Any ordinary pair of old shoes, that would usually be cast aside, can be re-made and put in condition there for much good service, at only a fraction of the cost that a new pair. In fact this enterprise is just what is needed in order to reduce the high cost of living, and the proprietor, Mr. Kuhn, will be found to be just the man to have charge of such an establishment, being enterprising, courteous and ready at all times to give customers a fair and square deal. He selected Farmington as his home not only because he is impressed with the city and its people, but also for the reason of the apparent need of this community for just such an enterprise as he is conducting.

For the past twelve years his entire time has been devoted to shoemaking and to studying the shoe needs of the people, and a trial order with him will convince anyone that he is thoroughly acquainted with his line of work, but he is a live, wide-awake booster for his home town, and he has selected Farmington as the place that more nearly approaches the ideal than any other he has been able to find. The Times will be received heartily, and that our people will give him a fair business test. If this is done, then there is no doubt that another strong business will be built up here, and that this community will be a large gainer thereby.

## "Repeat" Order Was a Success

The Fannie Crosby Sunday School Class of the M. E. Church, South, of this city, on Monday night repeated the play "The Minister's Wife's New Bonnet," which was so successfully rendered here last week, at Fredericktown, under the auspices of the Epworth League at that place.

While the performance did not draw so largely there as it did here, nevertheless the rendition was a complete success, furnishing splendid entertainment for the goodly number in attendance. A number of other places have indicated a desire for the play to be presented there, some of which requests will probably be complied with.

Now is the time to do your Christmas shopping.

## Missouri State Highways Department

Project No. S 20.13, St. Francois County.

### NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Sealed proposals, addressed to the County Clerk, Farmington, Missouri, and endorsed "Proposal for constructing (or improving) State Road, Project No. S 20.13," will be received by the State Highway Board until one o'clock p. m. on the tenth day of December, 1920, and at that time will be publicly opened and read at the County Court House.

The proposed work includes grading, constructing culverts and a gravel pavement 12 feet wide, together with any incidental work on the State Road from the Madison County line, a distance of 3.25 miles toward Libertyville.

The engineer's contract estimate of cost is thirty four thousand thirty-eight dollars and forty-three cents (\$34,038.43).

Plans and specifications are on file and may be inspected in the office of the County Clerk, at the offices of the State Highway Department, Jefferson City, Mo., or in the office of Division Engineer Mr. H. D. Griffith, DeSoto, Mo.

A set of plans and specifications may be obtained from Mr. Griffith or at the office of the County Clerk upon deposit of \$10.00, which amount will be refunded if both plans and specifications are returned in good condition within ten days after date of the letting.

Proposals shall be submitted upon blank forms provided for the purpose by Mr. Griffith, and shall be accompanied by a certified check for five (5) per cent of the amount of the bid.

The right is reserved by the State Highway Board to reject any or all bids.

ALEXANDER W. GRAHAM,  
State Highway Engineer,  
Jefferson City, Mo.  
Dec. 3 and 10.

### RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT

At a regular convention of Crystal Lodge No. 50, Knights of Pythias, held at their Castle Hall in Farmington, Mo., December 7, 1920, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, in His infinite wisdom, hath removed from us to his labors above our beloved brother, Solon E. Hough, who departed this life November 25th, 1920;

Therefore, be it resolved, that in the death of Brother Hough, this lodge has lost a devoted and honored member; his family a kind and loving father and husband, and the community an exemplary and upright citizen.

Be it further resolved, that in memory of his good life, brought to an end by his untimely death, the Charter of this lodge be draped in mourning for a period of thirty days; that a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the records of this lodge, and a copy thereof be sent to the bereaved widow and that the same be published in the Farmington News and the Farmington Times.

J. CLYDE AKERS,  
BENJ. H. MARBURY,  
W. W. WATERS,  
Committee.

Cecil Hughes, of St. Louis, came in the last of the week to attend the funeral of his mother, Mrs. Jack Hughes.